

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is listed below. This listing replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Claims 1-27 (Canceled).

Claim 28 (New): A method of increasing the drought resistance of plants, comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants and selecting plants which have higher drought resistance compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claim 29 (New): The method of Claim 28, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 30 (New): The method of Claim 28, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 31 (New): The method of Claim 28, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 28, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 33 (New): A method of increasing the drought resistance of plants, comprising:

introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2 or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 60°C in 1 X SSC and 0.1% SDS, and

selecting plants which have higher drought resistance compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claim 34 (New): The method of Claim 33, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 35 (New): The method of Claim 33, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 36 (New): The method of Claim 33, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 37 (New): The method of Claim 33, wherein the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 38 (New): A method of increasing resistance to high salt concentration in plants,

comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants and

selecting plants which have higher resistance to high salt concentration compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claim 39 (New): The method of Claim 38, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 40 (New): The method of Claim 38, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 41 (New): The method of Claim 38, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 42 (New): The method of Claim 38, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 43 (New): A method of increasing resistance to high salt concentration in plants, comprising:

introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into the plant, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 60°C in 1 X SSC and 0.1% SDS, and

selecting plants which have higher resistance to high salt concentration compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claim 44 (New): The method of Claim 43, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 45 (New): The method of Claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 46 (New): The method of Claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 47 (New): The method of Claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT

Newly-added Claims 28-47 are supported by the specification at pages 4-25 and by original Claims 1-7.

Independent Claims 28, 33, 38, and 43 specify selecting plants which have higher drought resistance or a higher resistance to higher salt concentration compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide. Those limitations are clearly contemplated in the present specification. The very purpose of producing plants which have higher drought resistance or a higher resistance to high salt concentration is to select them. In addition, such a selection is described at pages 23-25 of the specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by the amendments submitted above.